

REMARKS

This paper is being filed in response to the Office Communication, dated August 13, 2002, that was issued in connection with the above-identified application. Applicants request a two-month extension of time and enclose the fee required under 37 C.F.R. §1.17(a)(2).

Applicants respectfully request consideration of the remarks presented herein.

The Examiner has alleged that the following groups of claims each constitute a separately patentable invention:

Invention Group I: Claims 1-4;
Invention Group II: Claims 5-15;
Invention Group III: Claim 16;
Invention Group IV: Claims 17-19;
Invention Group V: Claims 20-22; and
Invention Group VI: Claim 23.

In response, Applicants elect Invention Group I with traverse. Applicants assert that the relationship between Groups I to VI is such that consideration of these two groups together would not pose an unreasonable search burden.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to deduct the fee required pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.17(A)(2) from Deposit Account No. 02-4377. Applicants do not believe any additional fee is due with this submission. Nevertheless, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to deduct any additional fees required with this submission from Deposit Account No. 02-4377. Two copies of this paper are enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,



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